

News Release



News Release

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#110614-WILFIRE

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Wildfire Safety Update

On June 13, Governor Scott signed a declaration of a State of Emergency due to the ongoing danger of wildfires and drought conditions in Florida. This order ensures that state, regional and local governments can take necessary actions to protect the lives and property in threatened communities. The KBDI average, or Keetch-Byram drought index of 0-800, for the state is 648. According to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, there are currently 109,485 acres burning throughout Florida. If you spot a brush or wildfire, immediately call 9-1-1.

As a precaution, the Florida Division of Forestry Blackwater Forestry Center is not issuing burn permits for Santa Rosa County at this time. Although no burn ban has been instituted at this time, Santa Rosa County encourages residents to delay any burning activity until the area receives significant rainfall. With below normal rainfall expected to continue through June and temperatures significantly above normal, Santa Rosa County Emergency Management is working closely with the local division of forestry officials to daily monitor our wildfire risk. If conditions change, the board of county commissioners can take action quickly to enact any necessary burn ban.

Local fire departments are encouraging residents to dispose of debris at a landfill instead of burning vegetative debris. For many, it only takes a few minutes to take it to a landfill, and it's much safer for you and those around you. At only \$3 for up to 320 pounds of yard debris, the Central Landfill located on Da Lisa Road in Milton is a very economical means of disposal. Additionally, residents living in the new solid waste franchise area, generally in the 32563 and 32566 zip codes, will have yard waste pickup every other week beginning July 1.

For more information on fire weather conditions, contact the Division of Forestry Blackwater Forestry Center at (850) 957-6140 or check online at www.fl-dof.com/fire_weather/forecasts.html.

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